



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District

Supervisor Gerry P. Broderick, 3rd District

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For Immediate Release

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CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY, SUPERVISORS WEISHAN AND BRODERICK RESPOND TO VETO OF SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway, along with Supervisors John F. Weishan, Jr., and Gerry P. Broderick, released the following joint statement in response to the County Executive's decision to veto an advisory referendum on whether to enact a one percent sales tax *dedicated* to support property tax relief; Milwaukee County parks, recreation and culture programs and services; transit services and public safety:

“A large majority of the County Board approved putting this issue on the February 19, 2008, ballot. We are extremely disappointed that County Executive Scott Walker has once again prevented the public from expressing their opinion on this important issue. This referendum is similar in spirit to the taxpayers bill of rights, championed by Republicans in the State Legislature, which would have included a referendum on any tax increase at the State level.”

“The voters should decide whether they want to decrease their overall tax burden in Milwaukee County. This sales tax referendum would let Milwaukee County voters decide whether to collect more revenue from non-County residents who visit Milwaukee County's attractions, but don't pay property taxes. We question whether the County Executive is really representing the interests of people who actually live in Milwaukee County. Perhaps that's why he chose to have today's news conference at a Home Depot store located on the Milwaukee-Waukesha County border.”

“With this veto, the County Executive is overriding the voice of the people. Whether they want to vote in favor of this proposal or against it, the County Executive is barring them the opportunity to do so. We would prefer that the people decide, rather than one arbitrary person.”

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors will consider an override of the County Executive’s veto at its next meeting, Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

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